

# WORKERS of the WORLD UNITE THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST

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## The Passing Show.

Property for the idlers means poverty for the workers.

The growth of poverty keeps pace with the growth of property.

The capitalist press gleefully chronicles the increased value of real estate, but is silent about the resultant poverty of the workers.

English employers are going to build up a fund of £50,000,000 to fight the "new unionism." They hope to make the workers furnish the fund to fight themselves with.

The worker thinks he has won religious and political freedom, but in many States he cannot open his mouth on Sunday to speak of religion or politics.

The worker is free to choose which person or priest he will follow, but he cannot choose his boss. His boss owns his job, and he can only work when his boss pleases.

Thousands of people believe in Socialism, but are afraid to say so. The boss is against it, and the boss owns their job, and curtails their freedom.

Light in the dark places causes a terrible commotion there. All wrongs yell together when exposed.

It is much easier to make people believe in what isn't than in what is. That is why there are so many false prophets. They know that truth makes slow headway.

The average worker cannot believe that he is a wage-slave so long as he is free to leave his job and starve.

One hour spent in the study of the writings of Marx is more enlightening than a lifetime spent in the study of theological sermons and discussions.

Capitalism speaks all languages. That is why the international proletariat has been loggerheads so long.

If the wheels of industry could be stopped for a week the capitalists would be compelled to take a turn at the handle.

The small labourer, mechanic, or craftsman dreams that some day he will be able to compete against the large concerns. He doesn't know how impossible his dreams are of realisation.

The Commonwealth Government is spending vast sums upon a fleet and an army. The more it spends the less power it has to defend the people.

The workers are so strong that they treat wealth with indifference. The parasites are so weak that they treat it as of first importance and persuade the workers to divide up with them. This accomplished the workers grow weak, while the parasites become strong.

In Brisbane the only ones who are allowed free speech are those who preach the religion of capitalism and exploitation.

The chattel slave overthrew the boss's right to own him; the wage slave must overthrow his right to rent him.

When the workers have produced too much wealth, they have to starve until the idlers have consumed the surplus. If the workers got the surplus the idlers would have to work for themselves. To keep the system going the surplus has to be kept from the workers at all hazards.

Tom Mann, addressing a meeting of workers at Windsor, Ontario, characterised the laws as the works of a dirty government, derided the church, belittled the King, and finally defied the Canadian police to arrest him for inflammatory utterances. This was too much for the president of the Trades Hall Council, who replied by singing "Gor-save the King." Mann is said to have left the platform in disgust.

Wade, the Opposition leader in New

## DISCRIMINATION.



With acknowledgments to The Worker, Brisbane.

## BRISBANE UNDER POLICE RULE.

### A Police Ukase.

"Sir,—Referring to your application of the 11th. instant, I have the honor to inform you that the Commissioner of Police **Does Not Approve of the Issue of Permits for the holding of open-air meetings on Sundays on roads within the Metropolitan Traffic District For Other than Religious Purposes** by accredited representatives of religious bodies.

(Signed)

F. CARROLL,  
Superintendent of Traffic."

South Wales State Parliament, says: "Put me back in power and there will be no more strikes." Wade is a grim gentleman, and while giving utterance to his thought it is likely that the clank of leg-irons and handcuffs was making sweet music in his subconscious mind. He reminds one of Deeming, who wrote to one of his intended victims: "I long for the time when you will grace my hearthstone." Deeming meant underneath it, where he usually buried his victims.

In the British transport strike a number of non-unionists employed at Tillings, Ltd., offered to return to work if the company would guarantee never to recognise the union again. The company refused and the men joined the union. The strikebreaker is beginning to learn that the master class has no gratitude or love for those whom it uses to do its dirty work. The wonder is that he couldn't see this before. Experience seems to be the only school tools will learn in.

Sir Edward Carson says that some of England's greatest generals are pledged to help Ulster against Home Rule. He is preaching civil war, and urging Ulstermen to arm and drill. The British Government has turned a deaf ear to Carson's inflammatory utterances, and the liberal and tory newspapers have taken them as items of commonsense and his actions as matters of course. Ben Tiller has parodied Carson's luridness but the government doesn't seem equal to arresting Tiller while Carson rants at liberty.

Federal politicians have been impressing the visiting contingent of British politicians with their loyalty, patriotism, and readiness to borrow money and piratical ideas from the "mother" country. On September 20th, 18,482 senior cadets were marched past them in Melbourne, just to give some idea of the steps that are being taken to defeat John Bull Cohen's interests hereabouts.

Premier Holman (N.S.W.), says that the Labour Party of the State never had a more critical fight than the one they are about to enter on in the coming elections. Yes, and it will be a good thing for the workers if they

are turned out of office. The present ministry, like their Federal brethren, have done considerable harm to the workers while in office, and they will be better in opposition preventing the Liberals from passing anti-working class legislation than in office passing it for them. The Federal Labour Party in opposition in doing the best work it has ever done in frustrating Joe Cook's efforts to carry out the "Liberal policy." Holman and company will be better in opposition, for there they will be compelled to fight Liberalism. In office they are compelled to do as bidding.

The Official Receiver, appointed in connection with the affairs of the New Zealand oilfields, says that "the prospects did not sufficiently disclose the enormous profits accruing to the promoters." A neat way of putting it. It would not have sounded half so well had he said that the promoters were rogues who had deceived the public and robbed share buyers.

Sir Gilbert Parker, speaking at a Canadian Club banquet, told the assembled Tories that conscription was never likely to be introduced in Britain, as it was absolutely inconsistent with Britain's whole history. "A home army is needed, however," he said, "in Britain as well as in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and other dominions of the Empire, because in the world's revolutions, one never can tell what may happen." Sir Gilbert here goes to the root of the matter. In any attempt at a social revolution an army would be handy to the capitalists. That is the main reason for its existence.

Labour M.P., Phillip Snowden has achieved fame by an article in the "Morning Post," London, in which he declares that it is unfortunate for Labour that the trades-unions of the world are "following wild revolutionary appeals" made by the "irresponsible section of trades-unionists." The new policy of militancy, he says, "will ruin trades-unionism." He advocates State Arbitration which would "make trades-unionism strong and universal as it has done in the colonies." If we did not know the Labour member, we might have fallen into the error of believing

that he was joking when he wrote such parts of his article as the dailies have delighted to publish. The unionists who have felt the effects of compulsory arbitration here, who have had their wages confiscated for striking, and who dare not now admit that they are striking when they are, nor contribute to a strike when it is on, will marvel at the capacity of Snowden to overlook obvious facts when attempting to back up an exploded and discredited theory. Compulsory arbitration is but a sorry attempt to tinker with the class struggle which cannot be settled by capitalist courts nor by capitalist cannons and bayonets.

In a mound near Plattsmouth, Nebraska, 58 women's skulls have been found with their faces turned towards the east. They are believed to have some archaeological interest though the capitalist press has not yet discovered what it is. Our archaeologist has come to the conclusion, after much cogitation, that the skulls may have been those of 58 women sultrages who our tory ancestors dealt with in their usual way.

It seems quite true that "walls do not a prison make nor iron bars a cage," for a few days ago, the cables informed us, that certain men, supposed to be imprisoned in Scotland, had manufactured counterfeit bank notes and flooded the surrounding districts with them. They made their notes of butter paper, and the press informs us that the notes looked just as honest as those circulated by the bankers, and they may have been really as honest.

Rumour has it that the wife of a Sydney millionaire has contracted leprosy. She obtained a very costly article of dress from an Eastern country, and wore it at one of the Queen Mary's functions in London, and in a short time unmistakable signs of leprosy showed themselves. The lady is now segregated and doomed to a living death. Another evidence of the evils and dangers besetting those who have more money than they know what to do with, and who must ransack the globe in their search for novelties in wearing apparel.

The Hon. Dan O'Connor, one-time Postmaster-General of New South Wales, is said to be an inmate of Rookwood Benevolent Asylum. Like Parkes, whom he greatly admired, Dan ended his public career miserably poor, though many members who are now fairly well off, owe their rise to his Payment of Members Bill. He served capitalism with what ability he had, but failed to look out for number one: an oversight which capitalism generally punishes by sending the guilty one to the poorhouse when he is of no further use.

The Wages Board, which considered Sydney wharf-labourers' case recently, deliberated in the Sydney City Mission Hall, Dawes Point. Above the table, where the chairman and the representatives sat, the walls were decorated with Christian texts, one of which was: "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." I must have struck the wharves as rather ironical, seeing that they were fighting like Sheol against being heavily laden by the Christian brethren who came from the opposite camp.

A big parade of Ulstermen took place a few days ago. There were said to be 14 battalions, each 800 strong. They marched from Belfast to the showground, three miles distant, where they were inspected by Sir Edward Carson. They gave three cheers for the union and sang Gorsave. One thing is certain: if they have to fight, their opponents will be unable to fire a gun into that crowd without hitting a fool.

Some ill-informed writers insist on making a sharp distinction between industrialism and syndicalism on the ground that "a big union," for instance, the American I.W.W., is an independent organisation, while the syndicalists of France or England are only a faction of a larger organisation founded originally on craft lines. The principles, however, are the same, much as their present policy and immediate methods may apparently differ.

Such distinctions are usually drawn by adversaries, of the movement who are endeavouring to stamp it as foreign, and ill-adapted to our temperament."—Andre Tridon.



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Write on paper not larger than letter-paper, and thin enough to avoid getting us fined for over-weight.

Mark the package "Press Matter Only," and address it "To the Editor."

Write briefly and clearly, as long and undecipherable articles stand no chance of publication.

Do not send business communications to the Editor, or literary matter to the Manager. To do so only causes confusion and delay.

If your article is not published, do not conclude that it is because it is of no merit, for it may be simply owing to the fact that it is not in accordance with the above rules. Where possible, articles of importance should be type-written.

Class rule can only be abolished by class war.

## "New Unionism."

### Violence and Sabotage.

The master-class has compelled the unions to become "militant."

Mr. Phillip Snowden, M.P., has recently had a good deal to say about the new unionism. He says it is distinguished by a "new policy of militancy," which will ruin trade unionism if it is not subdued. Surrounded by striking dockers, railway men, miners, and various other workers who seem to be taking a serious view of the class struggle which they, in common with all other workers, are engaged in, Mr. Snowden has become anxious and uneasy in his comfortable seat in parliament.

He warns the workers against the "irresponsible section of trade unionists" who have eliminated the friendly society aspect from the unions and have forced the movement into the sphere of industrial endeavour. "The old unionism which satisfied Mr. Snowden, 'built up strong reserves,' and attended carefully to those sad effects of capitalism—sickness and unemployment, but these same strong reserves often proved a source of serious weakness.

Instead of being a weapon in the fight against long hours and low wages, and thus decreasing the amount of sickness among the workers, those big reserves were only used to perpetuate the evil by attempts to help the sufferers to bear the effects.

The rise in prices, which, according to Kautsky, was six per cent. from 1900 to 1908, coinciding with a sharp decline in wages had a good deal to do with the labour unrest of 1910. A series of sudden strikes affected the railroads, the shipyards, the mills, and the mines. Those disturbances did not abate in 1911 and were characterised by the fact that the initiative, in almost every case, came from the men who struck against the wishes of their leaders. The reason for the leaders' conservative attitude in certain cases were disclosed by an article published in the "Daily Herald" of London for December 11, 1912. It was shown that a large part of the reserve fund of the Amalgamated Society of Railroad Unions had been invested in the stock of eleven British railroad companies, several of which were the bitterest opponents of unionism. The unions had thus been lending the enemy the sinews of war. The old leaders, who were bent on "showing good results" at the end of the year, were always loth to countenance any move which would cause the unions' reserves to shrink, and the conditions of the workers went from bad to worse.

The New Unionism, on the other hand, has realised that no matter how large a strike fund may be, it can never exceed the employers' fund which is fed from the coffers of international capitalism. The old leaders made several brave attempts to defeat the employers with funds, but in such fights

they invariably were worsted. In the famous strike of English engineers, twenty-seven millions were spent in strike pay, and yet the strike failed. In several Australian strikes there have been immense expenditures of money, and in the recent Waihi strike in New Zealand the men were defeated with abundant funds in hand.

But New Unionists do not consider what material advantages are gained when they estimate the results of a given strike. They do not waste time in computing how many strikes are lost and won, because they know that in the great class struggle a strike from which the workers do not gain any immediate advantage may constitute a decided victory from the point of view of future struggles. It cannot be said that the Waihi strike was a financial success, yet the strong incentive to class-consciousness which that strike induced has made possible a much stronger organisation of the workers than was hitherto possible.

Mr. Snowden regrets that the new unionism is leading to violence, sabotage, and other results which he regards as regrettable. But unionists have been shown a bad example by their masters. Surely Mr. Snowden knows what the masters did on the Rand, and what they are doing in Ireland. He should know that the employment of force by the masters is the cause of the adoption of forcible methods by the workers. Force begets force.

As for sabotage, have the workers not been sabotaged for ages? The exploiting class are guilty of innumerable actions which might be classed as sabotage. The dealers sell inferior food, and pellagra is the result. The fruit-growers pack the best in the top layers. Adulterated beer, milk, and food-stuffs are common. Shoddy is sold by the merchant as "something just as good" as the better but high-priced article. The doctor gives coloured water until he sees what nature is doing. The chemist dispenses inferior drugs, and the builder uses inferior materials in order to increase profits.

In America we are told that "car-loads of potatoes were destroyed recently; cotton was burned in the southern states; coffee was destroyed by the Brazilian planters; barge-loads of onions were dumped overboard in California; apples were left to rot on the trees in Washington; and hundreds of tons of foodstuffs are held in cool storage until rendered unfit for consumption. All to keep up or raise prices.

The Titanic and General Slocum disasters were due to capitalist greed; saving in life preservers—a form of sabotage. The Mount Oswald was sent to sea with 12 feet of water in her fore-peak, and the entire crew drowned—sabotaged by the owners.

These and other incidents of the class struggle have all helped to develop the new unionism and make it more militant, and this militancy, which Mr. Snowden deprecates so much, is a hopeful sign that the workers are beginning to see the way and are marching towards the social revolution.

### THE CAPITALIST STATE.

The state in its present form is necessarily and essentially capitalistic and national. It was established to defend a definite area or portion of the earth's surface, and boundaries, more or less artificial, were defined upon which neighbouring peoples were kept from encroaching. The tendency of the capitalist State was to enrich itself at the expense of all other national groups, and the gospel of exploitation was its fundamental principle. The State is capitalistic to its core. It was started for the sake of exploitation, and the best governed State must remain capitalistic, because its attitude to other States is invariably hostile. Therefore, those who look to the State as the true Commonwealth, and want it to take possession of the sources of wealth and abolish the abuses of monopoly or exploitation, necessarily drift into nationalism and hostility to neighbouring peoples. From nationalism flows conscription, racial hatreds, tariffs, and many other evils. The proposals of nationalists or "State Socialists" would lead to the formation of a national trust with all the force of the government behind it. The sole concern of such a State would be to see that industry is run in such a way as to pay the interest on the bonds with which the capitalists were bought out of the various large industries, and to extract as much profit as possible with which to relieve other capitalists from taxation.

### WHERE TRADE UNIONS FAIL.

Trade unions are efficient as centres of resistance against the encroachments of capital. They fail to a certain extent, however, from an injudicious use of their power. They fail generally because they confine themselves to a guerilla war against the effects of the existing system instead of trying to change it in its entirety, instead of using their organised forces as a lever for the final emancipation of the working class, that is to say, the ultimate abolition of the wage system.—Marx.

We depend upon you to increase the number of our subscribers.

## Victorian Wage-slaves. Politics and Syndicalism.

### A Strike and a Defeat.

A SHAMELESS BETRAYAL.  
(By Anti-Compromise.)

In the "International Socialist" of September 13th, the writer dealt with the revolt of some 200 wage-slaves in the fuel and fodder trade; who had (thanks to the Industrial Appeals Court) their wages reduced by 8 per week, and their hours of slavery lengthened.

That the slaves in question had had good reason to revolt, goes without saying, as a reduction in wages could only mean for them, and those dependent upon them, less of the necessities of life, while increased hours of labour could only result in their creating greater surplus values for their exploiters.

So strike they did, with the result that a section of the carters and drivers' union, thanks to the nature of modern capitalism were also involved.

But to be getting on, it is of the betrayal and surrender of those who, a week or two ago, with their backs to the wall, were manfully resisting a reduction in wages and a lengthening of their working week, that I want to speak, in the hope that many who are being led like lambs to the slaughter, by tricksters and other capitalist-class hirelings, will ultimately see the light.

When war had been declared, a strike committee of both unions concerned, was formed, which in its turn united with the Industrial Disputes Committee of the Trades Hall Council, this making what was termed one grand committee.

As to the Industrial Disputes Committee, this committee is a permanent feature of the Trades Hall Council, being composed of Trades Hall Council representatives.

The purpose for which the said committee exists, is that of endeavouring to settle peacefully disputes as they arise, and it is one luminary of the Trades Hall Council is to be believed, their efforts in this direction have been crowned with more success than any other body, although he wisely did not add, in whose interests (the disputes handled by this committee of fossils and wisacres) they were settled.

One would have naturally imagined that when the strike was declared, no stone would have been left unturned to secure the necessary financial support, without which no strike can very well be won, and also the necessary moral support of the industrial movement equally as essential, but not so.

The said grand committee spent most of their time in running after the exploiters concerned, endeavouring to bring about a settlement at all costs which, alas! as far as the wage-slaves who revolted were concerned, has wound up disastrously, a matter upon which I shall touch later.

But to the financial support which was so necessary, an idea can be gained of the support given by the fact that when strike pay was distributed single men received 7s and married men 15s, respectively, despite the fact that a resolution was unanimously carried by the Trades Hall Council assuring the men concerned of the backing of the bonafide industrial movement.

When a joint meeting of the members of both unions directly concerned took place, and members of the Industrial Disputes Committee, and a Labour politician (Senator Barker) urged the fuel and fodder section to return to work, leaving the carters and drivers, who had made the quarrel their quarrel, in the lurch. Mr. Chas. Gray (T.H.C. secretary), who also urged the men to return to their slavery (on the conditions recommended by the Industrial Disputes Committee), said funds were not forthcoming, adding some unions had not yet met, and some who have met have passed very small sums in support, adding that the rules of some unions did not permit of their passing more than £2 and £5 at one time or strike purposes.

That any body of unionists should take part in the framing of such rules is regrettable, and that such rules should be allowed to stand in the way when the best interests of a section of toilers were at stake, is to say the least, damnable.

The fuel and fodder employees having decided to return to work, there was nothing left to the carters and drivers concerned but to follow suit; consequently, a mass meeting was called, and after a lengthy discussion it was resolved that so far as the drivers were also concerned, the strike should be declared off, and that they go back on the conditions suggested by the Industrial Disputes Committee.

And now, a word as to the conditions referred to. Readers will remember that the wages board scale of wages and hours were turned down by Justice A. Beckett in the Industrial Appeals Court, and that the bosses refused to concede a single point of vantage.

But the strike had to be settled, so it was recommended that the men should resume work, pending the formation of a new wages board, and that in order to do so, it was necessary for the men concerned to set aside the wages board conditions which the masters positively refused to recognise, the mas-

### THE "LOGIC" OF R. S. ROSS.

A few Sundays ago I went to a debate at the Gaiety Theatre, Melbourne. The question was "politics." Ross and Turner in support, Laidler and Menzies against.

Now, we all know the arguments for political action, and, speaking last, Ross held a position from which he should have been able to use them to the best advantage. Yet his speech was apparently illogical from a socialist viewpoint.

The following are his main contentions:

1. All history proves that the men who write the law rule the world. The industrial power of capitalists comes from their political power. So we must go to the root of the matter and take away their political power, that will enable us to take away their industrial power.

2. If labour laws have not been enforced, that is an argument for capturing political power, so that they will be enforced. If the Mines Act of Tasmania was not enforced at Mt. Lyell, that was due to the workers' lack of political power. If industrial power is the real power, well, the miners at Mt. Lyell had it, why did they not use it to enforce the law?

3. Unionism has existed for thousands of years. If it could emancipate the workers, why has it not done so long ago?

4. Our big strikes, the Shearers', the Brisbane, etc., have been lost because the Government was on the other side.

5. Political charity, such as baby bonuses does not tend to reduce wages. According to that theory, a rise in wages gained by a strike would reduce wages.

6. My opponents claim that political action can do nothing for the workers. What about that noteworthy piece of legislation, the White Australia Act. Here by political action we were able to drive an alien race off the face of the whole continent.

It will be seen by the above that Comrade Ross apparently rejects:

(a) The materialist conception of history;  
(b) The internationality of the working-class;  
(c) Industrial unionism, the necessity for;  
(d) The commodity status of labor power.

If that is really the attitude of Comrade Ross, it is a pity. It would be had enough for a lay socialist, but for the editor of a Socialist journal, and a man who is well-known throughout Australia as an exponent of Socialism, to advance such an argument is certainly misleading—misleading to younger members of the Socialist movement, and misleading to outsiders.—Yours, etc.,

E. COOK.

Melbourne.

### Fighting Conscription.

Conscription in New Zealand and Australia is having one effect unforeseen by its advocates. It is turning some hitherto easy-going people into active militant opponents. Take the Sellar family as a case in point. This family as our readers will remember, were hunted out of New Zealand and Australia by the authorities, and made their way back to England, where they are now carrying on an active propaganda in opposition to the emigration and conscription boosters of Britain. The High Commissioner for New Zealand has repeatedly been drawn by Mr. Sellar to reply in the press, while his son Fred, spoke at the recent great anti-war demonstration in London. The "Daily Citizen" of August 13 had a lengthy reply by Mr. Sellar to the Hon. T. Mackenzie, who had written angrily in a previous issue. The high-ecallorum is getting a torrid time.

### CADET YEO RELEASED.

Cadet Yeo, 14 years of age, who has been serving a sentence of one month in Broken Hill jail for refusing to be medically examined under the Conscription Act, has been released. His penalty has been remitted owing to the vigorous protest made by the "International," backed up by public opinion.

ters agreeing to set aside the award laid down by Justice A. Beckett, this leaving the masters and slaves individually to bargain with one another re wages and hours.

To the dullest member of the Proletariat it must be apparent that those who described the above as a humiliating surrender are correct, and that the exploiters have scored, and their hands have been strengthened, yet this was termed peace, or an honourable settlement.

To sum up, the fortunes of war have gone against the slaves who revolted, not because they lacked fight, but because they lacked a sound knowledge of their economic interests, thereby enabling labor bleeders to betray them, the betrayal being made a comparatively easy matter by the weakness of the craft form of organisation itself.

Melbourne.



## Workers' Educational Association.

### A Reply to the Hon. Secretary.

By H. L. DENFORD.

The hon. secretary of the W.E.A., Mr. Stewart, replying to Luke Jones' criticism of the Workers' Educational Association, lapses into ways that are foolish and sayings which are not wise. It is a sad fact, but true all the same, that Mr. Stewart is a good sample of the bad educational influences of the W.E.A., and an example of the power of environment. I have in mind a time when Mr. Stewart was pleased to be known amongst the company of Marxian students, and as one who followed the teachings of Marx with equal blindness as he charges Luke Jones of doing. At that time Mr. Stewart was a member of the International Socialist Party, and we can draw two conclusions from his present attitude to the teachings of which he once professed to believe in. They are, first, that he was a member of the party on false pretences, second that he was a member because he was convinced that the economic, political and social teachings of Marx were correct. I think we can dismiss the first as being incorrect, and believe that the second position was the one occupied by him. It is a well-known fact of Marxian teachings that environment moulds and changes a man's thoughts, ideas, and general conceptions of life, and it may have been that Mr. Stewart was not fully conscious, or failed to grasp clearly the basic truth of Marxian teachings when a member of the party, and when he drifted away and came in contact with the environment of the Trades and Labor Council, and the teachings of "our" worthy Professors of the University, he fell an easy victim to their mode of thinking, and the basic laws of environment played their part.

As I said before, Friend Stewart lapses into ways that are foolish and sayings which are not wise. It is a most foolish way to say the value of a thing is determined by the crowd which follows, and it applied to our present political parties, "our" religion, and "our" popular theories of life, lands us in a position which is ludicrous and ridiculous in the extreme. Mr. Stewart does this when he states that "the individual membership and organisations affiliated with the W.E.A. is increasing, which proves to my mind that confidence of the workers in the methods of the W.E.A. has been tested and proven." And we can add, in accordance with the reasoning of Mr. Stewart, is sufficient proof that the education given by the W.E.A. is correct, and beyond and outside of all criticism.

It is well known and an indisputable fact that the vast majority of the workers are barren of all knowledge when it comes to discussing economics, sociology, biology, and all that goes to make up the philosophy of life. These workers become members of the W.E.A., and are taught those things by its teachers and Professors from a certain given standpoint, and they have confidence in the W.E.A., and do not desert from its folds; they would be base creatures, indeed, if they acted contrary, and such ingratitude would be unthinkable. The power of education is boundless, and when the W.E.A. has such virgin soil to work upon, it would indeed be a miracle if it failed to mould its students to its way of thinking.

Mr. Stewart states "that Mr. Karl Marx has been dead a long time now, and Mr. Jones surely does not imagine that economic development and economic thought stopped short with his death. I sometimes think poor old Karl would have wished his works to be buried with him could he have foreseen how they would have chloroformed the minds of otherwise intelligent men and women." &c. We thank thee, Mr. Stewart, for thy golden information, and we cannot help dropping a tear aside for thy benevolent and kindly thoughts for poor old Karl; and, whilst we are so touched, I would like to ask thee to comfort us in our hour of trouble, and to refrain from further persecuting us with thy gems of satire. I am so touched that it is a great effort on my part to ask you the following question, dressed in language of your own: Surely Mr. Stewart does not think that the theories enunciated by Marx stopped short with his death? Friend Stewart, you have lapsed right through your article into sayings which are not wise, and remindeth one of the animal that weareth long ears and brayeth loud and long.

However, let us drop allegorical nonsense, Friend Stewart, a German poet, "Heine," if I am not mistaken, wrote the following lines:—

"We do not take possession of our ideas, but are possessed by them. They muster us into the arena, where, like Gladiators, we must fight for them."

We have been possessed by the teachings of Karl Marx, and we plead guilty to being "chloroformed"—if by "chloroformed" you mean testing everything from their standpoint.

Friend Stewart, you foolishly accuse the students of Marx with having raised him to a god, with godlike attributes. We plead not guilty. We understand the part played by individuals, and we leave the worship of

great men to the bourgeois professors, who postulate the theory that history is the record of great men, and that men make history, and not history makes men. We cannot avoid the fact that the economic, social, and philosophical theories of Modern Socialism bear the name of Marxism, but we understand that those theories which are bound up with certain names, are but nominally the property of those famous individuals. They are, in fact, like the material achievements, the result of collective labor—the product of society. And it is but the ways of the barbarian past to regard historic names not only as brilliant leaders, but also as demi-gods, though such opinions are still prevalent among the learned men of the Universities, and many ignorant men amongst your intellectual environment.

Friend Stewart, modern Socialism has "sifted the chaff from the wheat," and it has unlocked the gates of knowledge with the key of the Materialistic Conception of History contained in the following proposition, which has enabled Socialist economists and philosophers to rise so high above the philosophers and economists of any other school of thought. That proposition is: "In every historical epoch the prevailing mode of economic production and exchange, and the social organisation necessarily following from it, form the basis upon which is built up, and from which alone can be explained, the political and intellectual history of that epoch." That proposition has been developed and carried to its logical outcome by the followers of Marx, and today we can claim to have winnowed the "chaff from the wheat," and cleared the road for a scientific conception of all human knowledge, and brought system out of chaos. And, Friend Stewart, if the student can grasp its full meaning, he will have no trouble in understanding from whence sprang religion, philosophy, and science; why there was an English, French, German, and American Revolution. Why the appearance of Capitalism, with all its attendant evils. And by its application, and the use of Marxian economics he can fully understand such things as systems of land tenure, Factories' Acts, fiscal systems, Industrial and Arbitration and Conciliation Acts, Trades Unionism, Commission Reports, Blue Books, Year Books, and all the confusing jargon of the gentlemen interpreters of our times. True, Friend Stewart, you cannot get all from one book, and there is no need for you to do that—the library of Socialism is large enough, broad enough, and deep enough for a study of all these things.

In conclusion, let me add, the Bon-Bawerks, the Mashalls, the Jevons, the Kidds, the Le Bons, the Henry Georges, the Mallocks, and all the crowd of capitalist economists and philosophers loved by the Universities cannot understand the teachings of Marx, Engels, Dietzgen, and Lewis Morgan, which are expressed in concrete form in Modern Socialism, because class prejudices and class affiliation prevents them. And, Friend Stewart, your W.E.A. may recommend the library of Socialism to the students, but if it is going to be interpreted by those who cannot interpret owing to their class positions being opposite to those of the students, the students are going to receive a bastard knowledge.

The working-class student can only sing:  
"By chains of poverty my life is bound,  
And superstition's mists obscure my brain.  
The curse of toil, the never-ending strain,  
Oppresses me, and weighs me to the ground.  
Made in a mould divine, yet I was found,  
Amid the filthy garbage of a drain,  
The offspring of the outcast and profane,  
Doomed to the level of a soulless hound.  
A vagabond! Sufficient for my kind,  
The beggar's meal, doled out from day to day,  
With drops of hollow faith to ease my mind.  
Bear I my cross until this mortal clay  
Shall totter to its grave! Where will you find  
My soul? Where Satan holds eternal sway."

Friend Stewart, that is the position of the modern worker, and the W.E.A. is going to educate him, to raise him from such depths. How? By inviting the gentlemen interpreters—of the class which forces him into such position—to educate him above a "soulless hound," to an understanding of his position—a worthy idea, but the means employed are no means at all.

Friend Stewart, we believe you know little, and we are convinced that you offer the W.E.A. to the working class on your best conscience and knowledge.—Believe me to be, Yours sincerely,

(At the conclusion of the discussion of the above subject Comrade Luke Jones, who was a member of the W.E.A. in England, and a worker in the inner circle, will reply and furnish some additional facts which he thinks will surprise some of his critics.—Ed.)

## The Church and the Worker.

### Clerical Strikebreakers.

Why is the worker still struggling against overwhelming odds.

(By SYDNEY PARTRIGE).

The Rev. Henry Howard says, in rebutting a few days ago in Adelaide, the statement of Moses Baritz concerning Socialism and Christianity, that there were "many schools of Socialism, some closely affiliated with the Christian church." It is true, as Socialists of the Baritz order know to their cost, that there are such organisations styling themselves "Christian Socialists," but these are about the deadliest foes the true scientific Socialist has to contend against, as they are masked under a seeming front of friendship. In reality they are tools of the churches which blind the eyes of their members to the true issue at stake, and while making the besotted worker think he is helping forward the great progressive movement of his class, is tying a stone round his neck and dragging him under water. These Christian Socialists of the "yellow" hue, are the bane of the true Progressive in Germany and elsewhere. They are one more clog on the wheels—one more bar across the roadway. If, as Mr. Howard says, Socialism is a "highly-organised system with destructive aims . . . framed" to antagonise "Jesus Christ and His Church, and all they stood for in the individual, family, social, commercial, and political life of the State," it is certainly not before its work is needed. In all of Mr. Howard's remarks about Christ and the church there is a certain looseness to which the logical mind takes exception.

Mr. Howard, in common with other clergymen, speaks as if Christ and "the church" were one and the same thing, but to an unbiased student of the very hazy records of Christ extant, they are two very separate and distinct things. The teachings of Jesus did not found Socialism, but very many of the words and deeds ascribed to Him are of a Socialistic tendency, and if the church which crucifies Him continually by appropriating His name lived honestly up to those teachings it would not be the huge burden on the back of the worker which it is today. As the little Italian, confined in an American jail for picketing, said: "If it wasn't for the priests we be strikin' tree hundred year ago." The clergy are some of the most malignant strike-breakers known, and until the workers realise this and act upon it their labours will compare very closely with those of Sisyphus.

Jesus Christ and the church should be entirely dissociated in a thinking mind. Christ had pity on the poor—the church thrives on them. Christ may have attempted to make "the world a decent place to live in." But what of the church? Through all the long ages which it almost unassisted made "dark" this decency is observable. I presume, in the rivers of blood it caused to flow, in the hideous au-das, in torments incalculable, in the destruction of exquisite works of art in the throttling of science, in its tyranny over the poor, and in its degradation of woman. If Jesus Christ "created the most potent moral forces in the world," why did they remain so long in a subterranean place of concealment while the church was blackening the sky with the smoke of martyrs and ending the void with their cries? If Jesus Christ is the "best friend possessed by the working man," He has had singularly little success in bettering their condition. Why is it the workingman is still struggling so fearfully against tremendous odds? Is capitalism still stronger than these "potent moral forces" "created" by Christ? Perhaps the answer lies in the fact that the church is stronger than Christ.

If Jesus Christ had given woman her proper place, lifting her up from being the chattel of man to be honoured and revered, the church most deplorably did not follow her example. I say that no woman with any knowledge of history of the church in connection with her sex, if she possesses a true respect for womanhood, can ever be a member of any of the Christian churches which are true descendants of the old stock. The church has crushed woman in the dirt; it has made her a thing lower than the animals; it has cast her very sex as a reproach in her face; it has made her walk as a thing accursed, as a vile creature, before man; it has dishonoured and belittled her; till very recently it has refused to allow her any position of privilege within its organism, and even now this rule is relaxed only to an extremely limited extent and by some sects; but it gives her all the dirty, hard work the men will not take on, at the same time it is practically supported by the foolish, blind women which keep its walls from crumbling.

In the days of ancient pagan Egypt, woman was on an absolute equality with man. To-day, after ages of degradation, she is making her hardest struggle in Christian countries to regain a little of her former power and prestige, and right along the line from the earliest

## Distress in Bulgaria.

We have received a very interesting report from Comrade Dimitroff, the Bulgarian Trade Union Secretary, via Constantinople, dated July 4th. The postal service being completely suspended the despatch had to be sent by messenger to Constantinople, and we are fortunate in receiving same safely. Concerning the present situation in his country, Comrade Dimitroff writes as follows:—Our worst fears have been realised and the Balkan peoples, urged on by the capitalist cliques and the imperial parties are now engaged in an appalling war among themselves. This war which was never officially declared by Bulgaria has now reached to its climax, and is attended by such atrocities, carnage, and terrible sacrifice as were not witnessed during the war with the Turks. From Widdien on the Danube to Aegaeon Sea battles have been fought which for cruel fury find no parallel in the history of war. The troops have been incited against each other for the last 10 days. Mad onslaughts and furious attacks are covering the battlefield with countless human sacrifices, whilst Macedonia is being ruined and her innocent people exterminated. Neither party could show any decisive result even if the hostilities were suspended. All reports in the foreign press concerning Bulgarian, Servian or Greek victories are purely imaginary, for, as a matter of fact, there have been no victories. The parties maintain the same position and there is but little reason to hope for any material alteration in the situation by continuing the hostilities. The number of victims to the massacre and butchery has recently been enormous; during the last 10 days 35 or 40 per cent. of the men in the fighting lines have been killed or wounded. This is what christian warfare has developed into. The wounded officers and soldiers declare that the war among the "allies." The plight of Bulgaria is indeed a sad one. Her enemies on the battlefield are Serbia, Greece and Montenegro, while one is attacked in the rear by Roumania, whose army has forged ahead to Varna on the Danube, seizing the telegraph and wireless installations, thus completely cutting us off from the outside world. Bulgaria is being oppressed from all sides. Greece now claims new territory. Instead of the "Great Bulgaria," in place of the "hegemony in the Balkans with a single prudent king at its head," as dreamed of by the inspired patriots, Bulgaria stands on the brink of a precipice in which her independent national existence will be buried. The reasons of the war may be looked for in the conquest-seeking politics of the royalist party, and the capitalists who saw in the war a means of extending their territory. But alone, they are weak and the royalists and capitalists cannot rely upon their own strength, so they pray for assistance first to one, then to the other, and finally to the Great Powers. But they are actually the blind tools of the Powers who, on their part, are conducting a campaign against the Balkan States. The European imperialism is just as much responsible for the Balkan atrocities as the capitalist and royalist cliques. The wretched agents of this imperialism have brought about the war by means of promises and encouragements to Turkey, in the same way as they have incited the Balkan States one against the other. They will now intervene in order to get as much as possible for themselves, and to get the weary and ruined Balkan States for ever in their clutches. There is only one way out for the Balkan people, a way which was discovered 10 years ago.

—"International News Letter."

### Wives Before Gods.

The chiefs from Southern Nigeria lately in London were entertained by the National Free Church Council, after which a conference was held. A number of questions were put to the visiting chiefs regarding their consumption of spirits, polygamy, and the progress of Mohammedanism. Mr. Edun said: "Your people were responsible for the introduction of spirits. Until Europeans introduced spirits our people were unacquainted with them." Regarding polygamy, a chief asked: "Am I to give up my wives whom I have legally bought, and who have borne me children, to save my soul?" Mr. Edun attributes the progress of Mohammedanism chiefly to the fact that while it acknowledges one God it permits several wives, whereas Christianity, while acknowledging several Gods, only allowed one wife. The natives would rather have several wives than a number of gods.

### NOT IN THE ARK.

Little Marie was sitting on her grandfather's knee one day, and after regarding him attentively for a time, she said: "Grandpa, was you in the Ark?" "Certainly not, my dear," answered the astonished old gentleman. "Then," continued the little truthseeker, "Why wasn't you drowned?"

beginnings of that fight, she, like the workingman, has found the church her bitterest foe.



## A.S.P. News & Notes.

### National Executive Administrative Council.

The Administrative Council met on Sat. Sept. 27, when the matter of Socialist unity was discussed. It was decided to recommend the branches to endorse the Detroit I.W.W.

The Council also discussed the Brisbane Branch's struggle to maintain the right of free speech, and the following resolution was adopted: "That we, the Administrative Council of the Australasian Socialist Party, enter our emphatic protest against the action of the Brisbane police authorities in singling out Socialists for prosecution for street speaking; and we also place on record our hearty appreciation of the splendid fight our Brisbane Camrades are putting up against such barbarous oppression."

The Ad. Council will meet on Oct. 11. All branches are urged to ensure the attendance of their delegates.

Branch Secretaries are requested to address all correspondence to

J. W. ROCHE,  
General Secretary,  
115 Goulburn Street, Sydney.

### BRISBANE.

"Life is real; life is earnest,  
And the 'jail' is not its goal."

Yes, positively life is all the poet says it is and more, but we in Brisbane "have our doubts" about the negative side of the poet's argument, considering the manner in which our Comrades are being carted to the Bogga Road Bastille. The authorities evince an earnest endeavor to belie the poet. The latest victim, Comrade Albert Jenkin, carried forward, with commendable success, the Free Speech fight last Sunday evening. I should imagine that on this occasion the whole of Brisbane's noble army of police, detectives and pimps, was to be found in the vicinity of Edward and Adelaide streets. At every corner, and in every hole, was to be found a "once man" representative of "Lor-an-der." Immediately Comrade Jenkin commenced his peripatetic and oratorical effort, these D's of darkness stealthily stole from their nooks and crannies, looking dogily at their master, Inspector King, for the word of command, but that heavy-jowled commander only twisted his chin, blew through his thick moustache (a little habit of his) and spoke not. Our Comrade walked along Edward street and passed into Adelaide street, meanwhile speaking to himself. For the space of 15 minutes he paced up and down Adelaide street, entertaining the crowd with a few sly digs at Brisbane's tin gods. "One would imagine I was the Governor-General seeing the size of the police escort which Commissioner Cahill has so generously provided me with," spoke Com. Jenkin, and again "Really gentlemen, I must thank our Commissioner Cahill for his gracious condescension in allowing me to speak to-night."

Several times the speaker crossed and recrossed Edward street, the crowd, which had grown enormously, following. Then the master spoke, the doggies obeyed. Three times they asked for a permit and then the arrest. Before entering the Watch House, Com. Jenkins called for three cheers for the revolution, and the crowd responded heartily. Some three hours later £10 was handed over the police counter and Com. Jenkins was released on bail. End of act one.

The curtain rose about 10.45 a.m. in the Summons Court, Magistrate Mowbray looking rather bored (he tried the last case), sat on the Bench. Sergeant Bell opened up for the prosecution, and gave the devil his due, treated us to a memoric feat, and fairly accurate account of the previous evening's events. Two more police gave evidence, and somewhat to our surprise, the heavy jowled King, giving a twist to his chin and a flutter to his moustache, which stunt almost shook off his eyeglasses, intimated to Magistrate Mowbray that the case for the prosecution was closed.

Com. Jackson, our first witness, gave his evidence admirably. A few words passed between the prosecutor and a D. an ominous silence, a furious twist of the chin, and the Prosecutor fired his bombshell. "Witness (heavy type here) have you not been in jail for speaking in the streets?" Jackson answered, "This is the first time that I've been inside a court." Jenkin turned and sweetly said, "Inspector, you fell in the soup there all right."

The next witness, Dan Johnson, made the crowd smile when in answer to a question demanding to know his occupation, said "I'm a slave." After corroborating Jackson's statements and withstanding the onslaughts of the Prosecutor, Johnson left the box, whereupon Com. Jenkin got on his feet and asked for an adjournment in order to call more witnesses. The Magistrate adjourned the court until Wednesday afternoon. End of act 2.

Act 3. To-day, Wednesday, Com. Jenkins called two more witnesses for his defence, Thompson and Dash. Thompson's evidence was most amusing, especially when Inspector King cross-examined him. When asked what position he occupied in society, he

replied that he was sometimes an exploiter and sometimes a slave. King wanted an explanation; thereupon Thompson gave him a short dissertation on slavery.

Jenkin's final remarks were good, and the Magistrate, in giving his decision, complimented him in the way he had conducted his defence. The Magistrate was inclined to be lenient, especially after hearing from witness Dash that he (Jenkin) was one of Sydney High School's best scholars. He tried to extract a promise from our Comrade not to come out on the streets to speak again, but Jenkin would give no such promise, whereupon he was fined £3 or one month's rest at Bogga road. Comrade Jenkin is resting.

We have held several Free Speech meetings, and funds are coming in fairly well.

Last Saturday night the Labor Party held an indignation meeting to protest against Digby Denham's Electoral Amendments Act which seeks to disfranchise many nomadic workers. I asked permission to address the audience on the matter of Free Speech, but they (Labor men) did not think it politic. Two Labor speakers touched on the matter, and after the Chairman had closed the meeting I took the platform and spoke briefly. The police came along and asked me for my permit. Of course, I had none, so was compelled to get down. The crowd resented the action of the police, and lustily gave three cheers for Free Speech. More developments next Sunday. Would you kindly acknowledge the following for P.S. Fund: Collected at Ipswich, 18/3; col. at Brisbane, £1/3/3; E. Foreman, Rockhampton, £1/1; A. Anderson, 5/-; Skovronsky, 2/-; Karpenen, 1/-; 2nd. col. at Ipswich, 8/11; Kautz, 2/-; total, £4/1/5.

Monday, By Telegraph: Thompson chained to a post. Great excitement. Police buffaloed. O'Brien arrested later. GORDON BROWN, Org. Sec.

### MELBOURNE BRANCH A.S.P.

A fortnight has passed since the last report of our Branch activities has appeared in our valuable little paper, nevertheless we are still on deck, and likely to be, despite the wishes of willy, wobblers, and Labour tricksters.

Finances, let me say to start with, are good, but nevertheless every penny is required. Our Yarra Bank meetings also boast a larger attendance than usual, but unfortunately, no literature can be sold at same, owing to cast iron medieval legislation relating to the disposal of leaflets, papers, etc.

Through time we hope to be able to get the Police Offences Act so amended as to favour our work of education.

Meetings at headquarters on Sunday evenings, boast the usual attentive audience, but if all comrades would only invite friends, workmates, etc., an increased attendance would be the result.

The other activities of our branch continue to prosper, and undoubtedly as more speakers come our way, and our membership grows, we shall accomplish things.

Comrades should note that the Branch monthly general meeting will be held at headquarters on Saturday, October 4th, at 3 p.m. Make a note and attend.

J. R. WILSON, Hon. Sec.

### NEWTOWN.

The usual Saturday nights meeting was held on the Bridge, Sept. 20. Comrades Kilburn and Duffield received a splendid hearing and made a good impression. On the 21st, Comrade Page opened the meeting and was followed by Coms. Duffield and Jones who kept the audience interested until 10 o'clock. Sept. 26, Comrade Carney was chairman, and Duffield and Jones speakers. On the 27th, a record meeting was held at which Comrades Page, Duffield, and Kilburn officiated and got a splendid hearing. Literature sales were excellent, all sold out, showing splendid work by all concerned.

ANNIE DUFFIELD, Secretary.

### BROKEN HILL.

We have been having stirring times in Broken Hill. When the shop assistants (to the number of about 700) came out on strike a few weeks ago, it did not seem that they were very enthusiastic or class-conscious. Attempts made by master-class pimps to bluff them to return to their work were, however, turned down with a bang. Then came a wages board (on which the union was not represented) and it made an award, practically in terms of the masters' schedule of wages. A great mass meeting of unionists was held on Sunday, 14th inst., and it was resolved by an overwhelming majority to support the shoppies in rejecting the award and continuing the fight.

A few of the shoppies scabbed, but most of these again came out, and last Tuesday the strike began to assume a business-like appearance. The shops were picketted more energetically than before, and it was arranged to hold mass meetings in front of the Trades Hall every evening. On Wednesday morning Comrade H. S. Wood was arrested in front of one of the leading stores in the main street on a charge of riotous behaviour. The police alleged that he grabbed a man by the

shoulder as he was going into the shop, and asked him in a loud voice not to enter a scab shop. The case was heard this (Monday) morning, and the only evidence for the police was given by the two "Johns" who made the arrest. Comrade Wood and four witnesses denied the allegations, but Butler, the magistrate, found him guilty and imposed a fine of £2 or a month, and ordered him to find a surety of £20 to be of good behaviour for six months. Lawyer Hall, on Woods' behalf, lodged notice of appeal. A few days previously the same Butler had fined a man who was brought up on an identical charge, 10/- At mid-day on Wednesday, when Comrade Wood was arrested, we of the Socialist party, held a street corner meeting, and the police attended in sufficient force to quell a Dublin riot. Our speakers have been doing most of the speaking at the evening meetings in front of the Trades Hall and yesterday (Sunday), we held a big open-air meeting, while in our hall, Comrades O'Reilly, Hytton, Wallace, and Sinclair addressed a very large audience.

On Friday evening, an incident occurred which should be an eye-opener to those apathetic slaves who put their faith in "law and order." The shops in the main (Argent) street, had closed at 9 p.m., and a group of seabs, under police escort, marched along to the corner of Oxide and Argent streets, followed by a big crowd. Near the corner, a whistle sounded, and suddenly about forty police in plain clothes lined up along Oxide-street, some of them, and particularly Sergeant Dimond, who appeared to be in charge drew their pistols, and flourishing them, ordered the crowd to stand back. One of our comrades put the query: "What is it to be—South Africa again?" and when he repeated the query and alluded to the pistol, Dimond put it away, and drawing a baton, said: "No; that is what you saw." Some of the police were wildly excited, and it only needed some untoward incident to have caused bloodshed. The crowd, however, quietly dispersed. Yours for revolt,

D. HEALY, Secretary A.S.P.

### THE "INTERNATIONAL" POSTBAG.

C.M. (Taabinga Village): "I see in the last 'International Socialist' that you are badly in need of financial assistance, so I will do the little I can to help you along. I for one would sooner give ten shillings a year for the paper than see you stop printing it. Enclosed find postal note for five shillings, and I shall send you another five shortly."

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